

TIPP CITY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

TIPP CITY, MIAMI COUNTY, OHIO

MARCH 10, 2008

Roll Call

City Service Director Scott Vagedes called this meeting of the Tipp City Parks Advisory Board to order at 7:02 p.m.

Members in attendance included: Pam Hale, Maynard Watkins, David Mihalyo, Doug Slagel, and Patrick Hodges.

Also in attendance were Acting City Manager Brad Vath, Park Superintendent Jim Asher, Monroe Township Trustee Dr. Martin English, Tipp City Board of Education member John Muldowney, Tipp Monroe Community Services representative Kathy Taylor, and acting Secretary Marilyn Fennell. Guest signing the register- John Franzer. Matt Clevenger of the *Independent Voice* was in attendance.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Mr. Vagedes asked for nominations for Chairman. Mr. Watkins nominated Mrs. Hale. There were no further nominations. Mr. Mihalyo **moved to close the nominations**. Mr. Slagel seconded the motion, motion passed 5-0. Mrs. Hale was elected Chairman by a vote of 4-0-1. Mrs. Hale abstained.

Mr. Vagedes asked for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Mr. Watkins nominated Mr. Mihalyo. There being no further nominations, Mr. Watkins **moved to close the nominations**. Mr. Hodges seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Mr. Mihalyo was elected by a vote of 4-0-1. Mr. Mihalyo abstained.

Minutes

January 14, 2008
Meeting

Mr. Vagedes turned the meeting over to Mrs. Hale. The minutes of the January 14, 2008 were reviewed. Mr. Mihalyo **moved to approve the minutes of January 14, 2008 as presented**. Mr. Slagel seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0-1. Mrs. Hale abstained due to her absence from the meeting.

November 12, 2007
Meeting

Mrs. Hale said the minutes from November 12, 2007 need approved. Mr. Vath advised that Board members can vote on the minutes with a notation that you were not present at the meeting. As the other 4 members are new to the Board, Mrs. Hale **moved to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2007 meeting as presented**. Mr. Mihalyo seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Citizens' Comments Not on the Agenda

There were no citizens' comments on items not on the agenda.

New Business

There was no New Business to discuss

Old Business

Kyle Park Dog Park

Mr. Asher reported there had been several articles in the local newspapers. The nice weather brought out some patrons. The drinking fountain for dogs and their owners will be installed in the spring. Mrs. Hale asked if there were other features to go in. Mr. Asher said there are some items that have been discussed but no specific dates for those items. Mr. Hodges said he had been to the site and thought it looked great. Mr. Asher said there has been a request for a divider for the larger and smaller dog exercise area. He said he hoped that could still be done. Dr. English asked about a formal dedication and an invitation to the sponsors. Mr. Asher said he was hoping for better weather. Mr. Slagel was concerned about the gates being forced open due to the snow. Mr. Asher said he was monitoring that situation. Mr. Vagedes said there are still donations being received and hopefully the dividing fence and other improvements will be done in the future as funds permit.

Kyle Park Restrooms

Mr. Asher said the roof is complete, the bathroom fixtures are set, some of the doors are installed, and that April 1 is the goal to be open. Mr. Breck Cowell of Jr. Baseball asked if his organization needed to be responsible for locking the facility or cleaning. Mr. Asher said his staff would take care of those duties. Mr. Asher added it would be the same as the facility at the Sports Pavilion.

Field Use Policy

Ms. Taylor proceeded with the discussion on the field use policy for the baseball/softball/soccer fields at Kyle and City Parks. The last revision of the proposed policy was included in the Board packets. She said Dr. English had reviewed the policy and he had some valid corrections that should be considered. The first was in the definition of a "resident". He recommended the word "*incorporated*" be added before "Tipp City and/or Monroe Township". He also recommended that it read "or a non-resident "*Tipp City income*" taxpayer.

Ms. Taylor said the Board's additions had been made, referring to the bottom of page 3, regarding "If a team is having difficulties in reaching the 80% residency rule, a special waiver for that sport year only can be granted by the Tipp City Park Board. Evidence must be presented to the Park Board indicating that all means were used to try to reach the residency rule of 80%". She added on page 4, it read, "All guidelines within this policy must be followed. Any team, individual or league violating any of the policies will be removed from the schedule for the remainder of their sport season." Mrs. Hale asked the definition of "sport season". She said Select Soccer goes almost a whole year with Fall and Spring. Ms. Taylor said if it was the same team and they violated the rules, then they would be out the whole year.

Mr. Hodges asked that the policy pages be numbered and that the bulleted items be numbered for better clarification. He raised a question about the Park Advisory Board reviewing any special considerations as the Board only meets every two months. Ms. Taylor said she thought it was good to have an impartial view on a request and a special meeting could be held if necessary.

It was pointed out by guest, John Franzer that Select Soccer has two separate seasons, Spring and Fall, in a year which may have different rosters, different coaches, etc. Ms. Taylor said she would use the verbiage, "sport season" instead of "sport year".

Mr. Hodges suggested on page 5, under Restricted Activities to add #4- Any group or individual that has not successfully completed all guidelines related to the "Field Use Agreements" and/or the "Event Application" with the City of Tipp City shall be denied use of the fields. Mrs. Hale said that is basically implied but should be stated.

There was discussion as to the time needed to have this policy approved and in place for the different sport seasons. Ms. Taylor said Jr. Baseball has had sign-ups and fall soccer starts March 31. Mrs. Hale said the corrections need to be made and the Board can review the proposed policy at the next meeting, then it can be recommended to Council. This will make it in force for the 2009 sport seasons. Ms. Taylor reviewed the changes suggested by all and said she would make those and e-mail copies of the proposed policy to the members and City staff. Mr. Cowell suggested that anything e-mailed be dated and have a Volume # on it so that there is no confusion. He needed clarification of "resident" and Ms. Taylor read thru that definition again. Mr. Cowell asked if a Tipp City business owner, who may live in another community, would be allowed to sponsor a team. Ms. Taylor said as long as they meet the 80% residency rule of team members there would be no problem. Players whose parents work and pay Tipp City income tax would meet the "residency" rule; if not the waiver process is available.

Mrs. Hale summarized by stating that the proposed policy will be e-mailed to members for review and the Board will take another look at the policy at the May meeting.

Bike Trail – Canal
Lock Park to Kyle
Park

Mr. Vagedes reported Finrock Construction has started clearing on the Bike Trail. They should be in full construction in April. The bike trail is anticipated to be finished by Memorial Day weekend. It will consist of \pm 2200 ft of bike trail. The Parks budget is going to allow the existing trail in Kyle Park to be widened to 10' from 8', (north/south route). Dr. English asked what safety features would be installed for crossing Main Street.

Mr. Vagedes said there will be cross-hatching, "bike-trail ahead signs", it will have 2 90° turns in it, stop signs; there will not be a straight cross-over at Main Street for safety factors. There will also be some split-rail fencing on both corners so one person can visually see the turns. Mr. Watkins asked the possibility of a caution light. Mr. Vagedes said there is nothing in the budget at this time for that. If there is a future concern, it will be evaluated at that time but the cost for a four-way stop light is \$75,000-\$100,000. A flashing caution light would be more appropriate if needed.

Other Business

Mr. Cowell asked about the use of fields at City Park. Mr. Asher said he, Ms. Taylor, and Mr. Cowell had a meeting earlier in the day to discuss this matter. Mr. Asher said most of Jr. Baseball's games and practices were scheduled at Kyle Park. City Park has been traditionally kept for first-come, first-serve *business basis*. Teams were found using the fields that were not affiliated with Jr. Baseball. There was discussion that Jr. Baseball would try to book some of the fields for practice-only this spring except for Diamond 3 which is reserved for Roundhouse usage or kids wanting to have a pick-up game. Mr. Cowell said it was used last year for first-come, first-serve use for 1 hr. Field #4 was used for an occasional game in the Rec League along with some of the girls' teams. It was never on a scheduled basis. That seemed to work okay until a select team would come in. Mr. Asher said the City's concerns was that there were teams coming in and playing games and he did not know who they were. Mr. Cowell wanted to know how to handle the situation. He has advised his coaches that it can be used for 1 hour. Mr. Vagedes said the fields need be reserved thru Community Services because the Parks Dept. mow the fields, spray insecticides/herbicides, etc. and we don't want people on the fields if they have been sprayed. The one field needs to be available for family reunions and pick-up games. Mr. Cowell said they would let Community Services know if there were to be games and typically they will use Field #4. He suggested that signs be posted.

Mr. Vagedes recommended that Jr. Baseball book the fields for specific days; maybe leave Friday open for maintenance. Mr. Slagel suggested that the general rules be posted at City Park. Mr. Asher suggested it say "For field usage, contact Community Services." Mr. Asher said signs could be attached to the back stops.

Mrs. Hale asked Mr. Cowell if the Board had addressed all his concerns regarding the usage of the parks. Mr. Cowell said they had.

Mrs. Hale asked for an explanation of what was needed of the

Neighborhood Parks Board members regarding the neighborhood parks. Mr. Vagedes said the previous Board members divided up the small neighborhood parks among themselves and met with the neighbors and found out what they wanted for those parks. (Note-The flyers included in the Board's packets.) It could be playground equipment, basketball courts, more plantings, etc. This is a way for the Board to get a handle on what the neighborhood wishes for their park. Each Board member would take two neighborhood parks, being Hyattsville Garden Park, Sycamore Woods, Tweed Woods, Woodlawn, Springhill, Windmere, Hampton, Manchester Chase, and Rosewood Creek. Funding is not available in the budgets currently, but we need to keep in touch with the neighborhoods. Mrs. Hale said her biggest concern was if the neighbors want something and she knew there was no funding due to our levy not passing, how could she give a positive comment back to the neighborhood. Mr. Vagedes said that could be positive in that you would find out how strongly the need/want was and then when the Capital Improvement Plan is worked on, a knowledgeable request can be made. Also if the neighborhood was willing to put up some funds, there's a better chance it could happen. Maybe they just want some trees or flowers. Mr. Vagedes said flyers could be handed out door-to-door.

The maps were looked at and it was decided to divide the parks up right after the meeting. Mr. Asher added that the America In Bloom committee has flowers ordered for the parks and if anyone wishes to help plant those, they are welcome.

Leshner Woods Mr. Asher reported that honeysuckle has been further removed from Leshner Woods across from the new high school. This will allow the woods to grow. Next year the honeysuckle will be further removed. He thought in 5-7 years it should look really nice.

Other comments Mr. John Franzer had a few more comments on the field usage matter. His son plays on a high school club team with two Tipp City students on the team. Tentatively they may be associated with the Northmont or Englewood facility but they would like to consider playing at Kyle Park. They know there will be a usage fee; all they want is a playing field for 5 games. He was not sure what he needed to do. Mr. Asher said they just need to go to Community Services and go thru the current process. Mr. Franzer asked if the City prefers that they go under FC Tippecanoe. Ms. Taylor said it did not matter. He also added that what the City and Community Services is trying to accomplish is no different from any of the fields around. He commented that the Hoke Road park is a "game-only" park and they do not permit practice on the fields. Ms. Taylor said she will work with Mr. Franzer.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Mihalyo, seconded by Mr. Slagel and unanimously approved.

APPROVED: _____
Board Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Marilyn Fennell, Acting Board Secretary

After the meeting, the Neighborhood Parks were divided as such:

Hyattsville Garden Park- Mr. Slagel
Sycamore Woods Park- Mr. Mihalyo
Tweed Woods Park- Mr. Watkins
Woodlawn Park- Mrs. Hale
Springhill Park- Mr. Hodges
Windmere Park- Mrs. Hale
Hampton Pak- Mr. Hodges
Manchester Chase Park- Mr. Watkins
Canal Lock Park- Mr. Slagel
Rosewood Creek Park- Mr. Mihalyo